

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 06016 01 OF 02 280340Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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P R 280317Z FEB 76

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INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

AMCONSUL LYON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 06016

SHAPE FOR PIO COL HARRY HEATH

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PAGE 02 PARIS 06016 01 OF 02 280340Z

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL

SUBJECT: FRENCH MEDIA CONTINUE TO SNIPE AT EARLIER U.S.
STATEMENTS ON DANGERS OF COMMUNIST PARTICIPA-
TION IN NATO GOVERNMENTS

REF: PARIS 05601

1. SUMMARY: ELEMENTS OF THE FRENCH MEDIA CONTINUE TO HARP ON RECENT U.S. STATEMENTS (PARTICULARLY THOSE ATTRIBUTED TO GENERAL HAIG'S APPEARANCE AT THE WEHRKUNDE IN MUNICH LAST WEEKEND) WARNING OF DANGERS TO ALLIANCE OF COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN NATO GOVERNMENTS. CRITICISM HAS COME MAINLY FROM GAULLISTS, COMMUNISTS, AND EXTREME LEFTISTS, ALTHOUGH SOCIALISTS HAVE COMPLAINED, TOO, AND THERE IS AT LEAST ONE REPORT OF DISSATISFACTION AMONG GISCARD'S INDEPENDENT REPUBLICANS. GOVERNMENT HAS MAINTAINED PUBLIC SILENCE (ALTHOUGH REFTEL NOTES PRIVATE ASSURANCES WE HAVE RECEIVED). COMPLAINTS TEND TO FALL INTO TWO CATEGORIES: A) CHARGES THAT THE US IS INTERFERING, AND B) CLAIMS THAT THE GOF, BY NOT DENOUNCING THESE WARNINGS, IS TAKING A POSITION SUBSERVIENT TO THE US. END SUMMARY.

2. ON FEBRUARY 26, PIERRE CHARPY WROTE IN THE GAULLIST PARTY NEWSLETTER "LA LETTRE DE LA NATION" THAT "GENERAL HAIG IS OFFERING THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY A WONDERFUL THEME FOR PROPAGANDA ON A SILVER PLATTER. THE NATO COMMANDER WAS NOT ENTITLED TO SAY, 'I WON'T ACCEPT THE PRESENCE OF MARXIST PARTIES IN THE GOVERNMENTS OF HIGHLY INDUSTRIALIZED STATES OF WESTERN EUROPE.' WITHIN AN ALLIANCE AMONG STATES, NONE OF THEM IS ENTITLED TO DECREE WHAT THE COLOR OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE OTHERS SHOULD BE...GENERAL HAIG MISTOOK THE TIME. WE ARE NO LONGER IN 1950, AND IT IS RATHER SURPRISING TO SEE AN AMERICAN MILITARY OFFICER CLAIM TO DICTATE EUROPEAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS WHILE HIS COUNTRY IS GIVING THE EXAMPLE OF DISENGAGEMENT IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. HIS STATEMENT IS BOTH AWKWARD AND INADMISSIBLE."

3. A SMALL ITEM IN THE FEBRUARY 26 ISSUE OF "LE QUOTI-
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PAGE 03 PARIS 06016 01 OF 02 280340Z

DIEN DE PARIS" (WHICH GENERALLY TAKES A SOCIALIST VIEW-
POINT) HEADLINED "THE INDEPENDENT REPUBLICANS AND THE
HAIG AFFAIR" SAYS: "THE INDEPENDENT REPUBLICANS ARE
REFRAINING FROM OFFICIALLY REACTING TO THE HAIG AFFAIR
BECAUSE, THEY SAY, IT IS A GOVERNMENT MATTER. BUT THEY
CONSIDER THAT THESE REMARKS ARE STUPID AND AWKWARD, THAT
THEY ARE UNTIMELY AND INCONSISTENT IN A PERIOD IN WHICH
AMERICA HAS A POLICY OF DISENGAGEMENT. THIS IS ATTRI-

BUTABLE TO THE LACK OF POLITICAL SENSE DISPLAYED BY THE
AMERICAN MILITARY, THEY ADD."

4. THE ONLY CONSEQUENTIAL PUBLIC COMMENTS BY SOCIALISTS,
SO FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, WERE TWO. ONE WAS BY CHARLES
HERNU, THE FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY'S SPECIALIST ON DEFENSE
MATTERS, WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE WEHRKUNDE CONFERENCE.
HERNU WAS QUOTED BY LE MONDE ON FEBRUARY 27 AS SAYING:
"I DID NOT WAIT FOR GENERAL HAIG'S STATEMENT TO REACT TO
OTHER REMARKS DENOUNCING WHAT THEIR AUTHORS CALLED THE
POPULAR FRONT STRATEGY FOR WESTERN EUROPE. I RECALLED
THAT THE VIRTUAL TOTALITY OF FRENCH PUBLIC OPINION DOES
NOT WANT TO GO BACK TO THE INTEGRATED MILITARY STRUCTURE
OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, AN ALLIANCE WHICH WE DO NOT
QUESTION. AND I PROTESTED AGAINST THIS CONCEPT WHICH
WOULD TEND TO MAKE NATO THE POLICEMAN OF THE ALLIANCE.

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PAGE 01 PARIS 06016 02 OF 02 280341Z

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 06016

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PAGE 02 PARIS 06016 02 OF 02 280341Z

IT WAS AFTER MY REMARKS THAT GENERAL HAIG MADE THE SPEECH OF WHICH THE AFP TEXT, IN MY OPINION, DOES RESPECT THE SPIRIT, A SPEECH THAT WENT BEYOND THE NATO FRAMEWORK SINCE THE SACEUR EVEN SPOKE OF THE 'DANGER OF DEATH THREATENING THE ALLIANCE FROM WITHIN.' IT WAS CLEAR THAT FOR GENERAL HAIG SECURITY IS A SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY WHOLE, AND THAT EVEN A EUROPEAN DEFENSE IS AN IMPIOUS CONCEPT...WE ARE BEING TOLD ABOUT A PRAGUE COUP, BUT THESE DERISORY REMARKS MAKE ONE THINK MUCH MORE OF A ROME COUP OR A PARIS COUP." (IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT CHARLES HERNU HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN AS ONE OF THE FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY LEADERS THE MOST FAVORABLE TO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.) EARLIER, JEAN-PIERRE CHEVENEMENT, LEADER OF SOCIALISTS' LEFT-WING CERES GROUP, WAS QUOTED IN THE FEBRUARY 25 ISSUE OF LE QUOTIDIEN AS SAYING: "THE REMARKS OF GENERAL HAIG--WHO, IT IS TO BE REMEMBERED, WAS COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN FORCES IN VIETNAM (SIC)--ARE ABSOLUTELY INTOLERABLE FOR THE COUNTRIES OF WESTERN EUROPE. THEY MUST BE SEEN AS A SOURCE OF FUTURE FRICTIONS NOT ONLY BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN LEFT-WING AND THE UNITED STATES, BUT ALSO BETWEEN ALL THE COUNTRIES OF EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES. THE AMERICANS SHOULD AVOID MISTAKING FRANCE FOR NICARAGUA AND ITALY FOR COSTA RICA."

5. LE MONDE OF FEBRUARY 26 CARRIES A LONG PIECE BY MAURICE DUVERGER, A LEFTIST PROFESSOR FOND OF TAKING UP ANTI-AMERICAN CAUSES AND WHO CONTRIBUTES OCCASIONALLY TO THE PAPER. DUVERGER'S PIECE MAKES MANY POINTS, AMONG THEM: A) THE U.S. DOES NOT HESITATE TO THREATEN

SUSPENSION OF ITS TREATY COMMITMENTS TO THOSE WHO VIOLATE HER ORDERS, ALTHOUGH THIS IS CONTRARY TO THE TREATY; B) IF THE FRENCH OR ITALIAN PUBLIC ELECTED COMMUNISTS TO POWER, THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO LETTING THEM HAVE IT WOULD BE ARMED REPRESSION, WHICH IS FASCISTIC AND CONTRARY TO BOTH AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN VALUES; AND C.) IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER DURING THE BICENTENNIAL THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY HAS BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY ACTIONS AIMED AT ESTABLISHING DICTATORSHIPS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO SECURE THEIR DOCILITY TO WASHINGTON.

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PAGE 03 PARIS 06016 02 OF 02 280341Z

6. THE FEBRUARY 25 ISSUE OF L'HUMANITE CARRIED ON PAGE 4 A COMMUNIQUE OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE PCF, WHICH DEALS WITH DOMESTIC ISSUES AND ALSO, IN THE SECOND PARAGRAPH, "EXPRESSES INDIGNATION AT THE DECLARATIONS OF GENERAL HAIG, WHICH CONSTITUTE AN INTOLERABLE INTERFERENCE IN FRENCH INTERNAL AFFAIRS. IT (THE POLITICAL BUREAU) CONDEMNS THE GOVERNMENT'S SILENCE, WHICH CONFIRMS THE ATLANTICIST AND ANTI-NATIONAL POLICIES PURSUED BY THE GISCARD REGIME."

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